SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to impose quota on agricultural products and essential commodities export to Russia under the 'debt repayment mechanism', if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether there is any plan to earn hard currency by exporting surplus commodities to Russia beyond this 'debt repayment mechanism' if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a act that an inter-bank agreement has been signed between Russian Central Bank and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) banning third-party trading of products exported under this mechanism and if so. the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No Sir. However, various aspects of 'debt repayment mechanism' which is of a recent origin are being continuously reviewed and evolved, in line with the relevant understandings between India and Russia.

(b) No Sir. However, trade between the two countries is possible both in hard currency and as per the 'debt repayment mechanism'.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India and the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the USSR signed an inter-bank agreement in September 1993 pertaining to the banking procedures in connection with the 'debt repayment mechanism'.

CHANGES IN CENTRAL EXCISE AND CUSTOMS RELATING TO EXPORTS

2354. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state : 212? RSS/94—9.

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Finance Minister has annoiuced and assured the exporters that all existing irritants and bottlenecks with Central Excise and customs relating to exports will be removed;

(b) if so, to what extent this will satisfy the exporters ;

(c) whether exporters have also made any suggestions for removing the hurdles; and

(d) if so, how many of them have- been removed so far ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (b) The Finance Minister has been emphasising in his meetings with various trade associations the need to improve our export performance wherein it has also been observed by him that any irritants and bottlenecks with regard to central excise and customs relating to exports : would be removed. Suggestions are recei- ved from time to time from individuals as also from the various exporting organisa- tions for simplification of customs and central excise procedures. The sugges- tions so received are considered and action taken to simplify the procedures Review of customs and excise procedures is a continuous exercise.

U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORT OF GOODS INVOLVING CHILD LABOUR

2355. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the effects on our export to USA on items like carpets etc. because of the restrictions imposed by U.S.A. on import of goods in whose manufactiu'e child labour was involved , and

(b) what steps have been taken to check the adverse effect on our export items by seeking concessions from U.S.A. and exploring alternate market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a)

and (b) The Harkins and Brown bills intorduced in the US Senate and the House of Representatives respectively, seek to prohibit imports into the US of products made wholly or in part with Child labour. The bills which are neither country speci- fic nor product specific, are at present at the. Comniittee stage. The proposed restric- tions are not yet operational and hence the question of the restrictions affecting our exports has not arisen.

Action has been taken to improve the enforcemeitt of our laws; voluntary action has been initiated particularly by the carpet industry to reduce child labour; amendments have been mads in the Exim policy where necessary in the case of carpet exports to help in keeping a check on the use of child labour. Further, external publicity measures are being undertaken to counter disinformation regarding the prevailing child labour situation and Io publicise the measures being taken fo eliminate child labour.

अनुज्ञप्तियों के लिए अनुसूचित जातियों अनुसूचित जातियों का आरक्षण

2356. श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर व्यापार करने हेतु अनुज्ञप्तियां प्राप्त करने के लिए आरक्षण दिया जाता है ;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितने व्यक्तियों को व्यापार संबंधी अनुज्ञप्तियां प्रदान की गई हैं और अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को कितने प्रतिशत व्यापारिक अनुज्ञप्तियां प्रदान की गई; और

(ग) यदि अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को अभी तक व्यापार संबंधी आरक्षण प्रदान नहीं किया गया है तो क्या सरकार संविधान के अनुसार उन्हें ऐसा आरक्षण प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

सांसदीक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) से (ग) निर्यात तथा आयात नीति 1992-93 के अंतर्गत, सभी मदों के खुले रूप में आयात अथवा निर्यात की अनुमति है लेकिन कुछ मदें आयात तथा निर्यात की दो छोटी नकारात्मक सूचियों अथवा नीति के अन्य प्रावधानों के अनुसार विनियमित हैं । चूंकि आयात तथा निर्यात अधिकांशतः मुक्त हैं, इसलिए नीति में किसी खास वर्ग के व्यक्तियों के लिए किसी आरक्षण की आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

INSTRUCT10NS(D1RECTI0NS FOR SPEEDY REORESSAL OF EXPORTERS PROBLEMS

2357. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to stale the details regarding instructions/direction issued by Government inter-alia including speedy rcdressal of the exporters problems, punishment provided to erring Officers, etc. as finalised by Government on 18th November, 1993 and appeared in the Press on 20th November and telecast on Doordarshan on 18th November, 1993 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Government has decided that each level/functionary shall be held personally responsible for acts of commission or omission which have the effect of causing delay without any justification to exports or harassment to exporters and such acts shall be treated as a dereliction of duty within the meaning of the Conduct Rules and dealt with as such.

The concerned Ministriss/Departments have been advised to issue suitable instruc- tions accordingly.

OFFICER ORIENTED EXPORT PROMOTION CELL IN EACH MINISTRY

2358. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to esta- blish an Offlcer-Oriented Export: Promo-